

Pre-read for CPARB meeting on December 9, 2020

CPARB Chair proposal to add a new (uncodified) section to the reauthorization bill:

Section X. The board shall coordinate and consult with the office of minority and women's business enterprises, the department of enterprise services, community stakeholders and advocates, and subject matter experts to create best practices guidelines for increasing and sustaining access to contracting opportunities in alternative public works for minority, women, and veteran-owned businesses and small businesses. In creating the guidelines, the board shall take into consideration the barriers to participation identified in the local government contracting report produced pursuant to SB 5418, information and recommendations from the 2019 Washington state disparity study and disparity studies of any other public body in Washington state, and successful diversity and inclusion policies being implemented by state and local government agencies. The best practices shall address, at a minimum, guidelines for use of race-neutral and race-conscious programs, elements of successful inclusion plans, the use of aspirational inclusion goals, evaluation of inclusion plans in the contract award process, and the evaluation of inclusion plans and past performance in public body certification and project approval processes under RCW 39.10.270 and 39.10.280. The board shall make the best practices guidelines available on its website by June 30, 2022, and include a plan to update the best practices to keep them relevant for use. Additionally, by June 30, 2022, the board will report to the legislature regarding any recommendations for changes to state law that are advisable based upon the best practices guidelines.